

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) >
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 3:54 PM
To: Shea, Valois
Subject: South Dakota PowerTech draft permits and aquifer exemption for uranium mining project in southwestern South Dakota

Per the EPA request for public comments on this permitting process for this project:

The risks to the aquifer for a private corporate enterprise are too high risk to be permitted.

If the aquifer is contaminated there is no method to remove the damage. As water is required for public consumption and agriculture uses that also evolve into public consumption this is an unacceptable risk.

There are also serious concerns about the company potentially cutting corners or abandoning the project. The price of uranium has been extremely low since the Fukushima nuclear disaster. With new problems that have since developed in the nuclear power industry the price for uranium will never recover. This could lead to a number of bad business decisions on the part of the mining company or an abrupt abandonment of the site when the business factors become too unfavorable or the company goes bankrupt. Currently Toshiba-Westinghouse has decided to permanently cease new reactor builds, is considering bankruptcy and could potentially default or abandon the current new US reactors under construction.

Areva is in a similar situation as Toshiba-Westinghouse and would be unlikely to pursue any new reactor builds if they survive their current financial problems. This is all extremely relevant when considering what is permissible risk by a highly unstable private enterprise.

Western South Dakota knows all too well what happens when a uranium mining enterprise abruptly fails. This is how the current uranium mining mess left in the state was created. We should learn from past mistakes rather than hoping another company coming in won't do the same thing.

This new mining scheme provides no benefit to the local or regional community but poses a significant and permanent risk to the water system and environment of the region in question in western South Dakota.

Sincerely,

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SimplyInfo.org research team member

SimplyInfo.org technical team member

info@simplyinfo.org - group email

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